



PRESS RELEASE

USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
Public Affairs Office
FPO AP 96634-2770

E-mail: pao@kitty-hawk.navy.mil
Web: www.kittyhawk.navy.mil



For Immediate Release
Release: 07-002

Jan 22, 2006



British Sailors tour Kitty Hawk

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew Reinhardt, Kitty Hawk public affairs

USS KITTY HAWK, Yokosuka, Japan – Fifteen Royal Navy Sailors from the survey ship HMS Echo (H87) visited USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Jan. 18, during their port visit to Yokosuka, Japan.

“I’ve never been on a U.S. carrier before,” said Chief Weapons Engineer Rob Lawes of the Royal Navy. “Truly, ‘awesome’ is the only word that could be used to describe it. Being on board, even when the ship’s not fully operational, you can really get an idea of how powerful the ship really is.”

Echo is the first of two multi-role hydrographic survey ships commissioned by the Royal Navy. Its mission is to collect oceanographic information and survey marine growth to make a complete picture of the sea environment, said Lawes.

At 297 feet long and 55 feet wide, Echo is less than one-fifteenth the size of Kitty Hawk.

“Our ship could probably fit in [Kitty Hawk’s] hangar bay,” said Lawes.

Echo, based out of Plymouth, England, pulled into Yokosuka Jan. 17 to perform its monthly shift rotation, in which the ship rotates one-third of its 45-man crew ashore at a time. Both ongoing and off-going shift crew members were able to tour the Kitty Hawk.

It's important for Sailors to be able to see ships from different nations for both diplomacy and education, said Cmdr. Jeremy Churcher, Echo's commanding officer.

"[Kitty Hawk] is a fine ship with a prestigious history," said Churcher. "It would be an extraordinary privilege to serve on board. Any crew member should be proud."

"The British are one of our closest allies," said Lt. Tim Reinhardt, Commander Naval Forces Japan's assistant liaison to the Echo. "Interacting with their Sailors and sharing our capabilities with one another strengthens our alliance."

To find more news about the Kitty Hawk Strike Group, visit the Navy NewsStand at www.news.navy.mil/local/cv63/.